

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8141

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 1915

EXDIS

DEPT PLS PASS TO SECRETARY FROM ASST SECY ROGERS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EFIS, PE

SUBJECT: LIMA

SUMMARY: A STOP IN LIMA WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE AND TROUBLE-FREE -- BARRING SOME IRRATIONALITY ON THE PART OF THE GRIEVOUSLY-ILL PRESIDENT VELASCO. I MET WITH PRIME MINISTER MORALES BERMUDEZ, FONMIN DE LA FLOR AND SEVERAL OTHERS. FROM ONE AND ALL IT IS CLEAR THAT THE GOP WILL BE ON ITS BEST BEHAVIOR -- AND WILL ENSURE THAT THE LOCAL PRESS IS TOO. THEY WANT TO DISCUSS BILATERAL ISSUES, THE PARTICULARS OF THE PERUVIAN REVOLUTIONARY THEOLOGY AND YOUR WORLD VIEWS. MY ONLY MISGIVING IS THAT THE CELEBRATED INSTINCT OF LIMA TO EXTEND ITSELF TO ITS GUESTS MAY OVERWHELM YOU.

1. THE PRIME MINISTER LIMITED HIMSELF LARGELY TO THE BILATERAL ISSUES SET DOWN IN EARLIER REPORTING CABLE FROM LIMA.

2. DE LA FLOR, WITH WHOM I MET FOR TWO AND A HALF HOURS, RANGED WIDELY OVER THE DETAILS OF YOUR HOPED FOR VISIT -- A CALL ON THE PRESIDENT AT HIS RETREAT, A CAREFULLY ORGANIZED DISCUSSION WITH DE LA FLOR ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, A
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VISIT TO MUSEUMS AND CHURCHES, A DINNER WITH WIVES

AT THE ELEGANT FOREIGN MINISTRY AND SO FORTH. HE IS OBVIOUSLY DELIGHTED THAT YOU MIGHT FINALLY ACCEPT HIS LONG-STANDING PERSONAL INVITATION. WHEN THE DATE IS FINALLY SETTLED WE CAN FIX THESE DETAILS THROUGH AMBASSADOR DEAN.

3. HE ASSURED ME THERE WOULD BE NO TROUBLE -- NO SECURITY PROBLEMS AND NO SWIPES AT THE U.S., YOU OR THE CIA BEFORE OR DURING YOUR VISIT.

4. AS TO SUBSTANCE, INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, HE WANTS TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE PROGRESS IN THE LOCAL ARMS-LIMITATION DISCUSSIONS. THE CIA IS ON HIS MIND, AND THE MINDS OF OTHER HIGH PERUVIANS. HE ALSO WANTS A WORD -- QUIETLY -- ON THIS WITH YOU. I MENTIONED THE OFFICIAL REFERENCES TO THE AGENCY AND MADE IT CLEAR THAT THIS WAS WHAT WE DID NOT WANT, PARTICULARLY DURING A VISIT. HIS VIEW IS THAT THE FEARS AND APPREHENSIONS IN PERU ARE NOT ONLY NATURAL BUT INEVITABLE GIVEN THE RICH OUTPOURING FROM WASHINGTON AND ELSEWHERE LATELY ABOUT THE CIA. HE ALSO LECTURED ME ON THE CRITICISM OF PERU IN SOME U. S. NEWSPAPERS ON OUR DISPOSITION OF THE GREENE AGREEMENT PROCEEDS TO IPC, AND ON OUR REFUSAL SO FAR TO GO ALONG WITH PERU'S PROPOSED TREATY ON COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY.

5. HE ASKED ABOUT OUR POSITION ON CUBA. I REFERRED TO YOUR HOUSTON STATEMENT AND HE REPLIED ONLY THAT THE SPEECH HAD NOT RECEIVED MUCH COVERAGE IN THE LIMA PRESS -- FROM WHICH I GATHERED THAT HE MAY NOT HAVE READ IT. I ASSUME HE WILL PURSUE THE QUESTION WITH YOU.

6. WE HAD AN EXTENDED DISCUSSION OF THE TRADE ACT. HE READS THE GRAVEST SIGNIFICANCE INTO THE OPEC PROVISION, SEEING IT AS A "SWORD OF DAMOCLES" AND A "THREAT" AGAINST ALL PRIMARY COMMODITY PRODUCERS, INSPIRED BY THE SAME CONFRONTATION INSTINCTS IN THE CONGRESS WHICH HAD LEAD TO THE HICKENLOOPER AND CONFIDENTIAL

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GONZALEZ AMENDMENTS. I REPLIED THAT THE ACT WAS DIRECTED ONLY AT PRODUCER ASSOCIATIONS WHICH RAISED THE PRICES OF VITAL MATERIALS TO THE POINT OF SEVERE GENERAL ECONOMIC HURT AND EMPHASIZED, AGAIN DRAWING ON THE HOUSTON STATEMENT, THAT YOU WERE MOVING FOR A SOLUTION -- HOPEFULLY BEFORE THE OAS/GA. PERHAPS HE WAS MOLIFIED A BIT, BUT YOU WILL FIND THE PERUVIAN BRAND OF SEMI-PARANOIA

ON THE TRA PARTICULARLY INTERESTING. (MY SESSIONS WITH THE FINANCE AND COMMERCE MINISTERS, REPORTED SEPARATELY, REVEALED A DAZZLING IGNORANCE OF THE LAW ON THE PART OF THE GOP.

7. DE LA FLOR ALSO TALKED ABOUT THE BRANIFF-AEROPERU DISPUTE, TO WHICH AMBASSADOR DEAN REPLIED THAT THE TWO COMPANIES SHOULD RESUME DISCUSSIONS SOON.

8. FOR ALL HIS SPIRITED CHALLENGE AND HIS STRONG THIRD-WORLD INSTINCTS, DE LA FLOR MAINTAINS THE WARMEST REGARD FOR YOU. A VISIT TO LIMA WOULD BE A SUPREME MOMENT FOR HIM. HE SENDS HIS WARMEST PERSONAL SALUDOS.

9. I ALSO MET WITH HIS TOP CIVILIANS IN THE FORMIN, SECRETARY GENERAL GARCIA BEDOYA, BUT SEPARATELY FOR REASONS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR TO ME. I ASKED ABOUT ATTACKS, AND SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE PRESIDENT'S

VEILED REFERENCE TO THE CIA DURING THE RIOTS. GARCIA BEDOYA CONFIRMED THAT YOUR VISIT WOULD BE FREE OF EMBARRASSMENT, PERSONAL OR OFFICIAL. HE ALSO ASSURED US THAT THE ARMED FORCES WOULD NOT TAKE IT AMISS IF YOU MET WITH SUCH PROMINENT NON-OFFICIAL INTELLECTUALS AS THE NOVELIST VARGAS LLOSA. HE ALSO THOUGHT YOU SHOULD MEET THE REVOLUTION'S PRINCIPAL IDEOLOGIST CARLOS DELGADO.

10. VELASCO HIMSELF IS EVIDENTLY OUT OF PLAY. HE FAILED TO SHOW UP AT THE UNIDO CONFERENCE THE SAME DAY, SO I COULD NOT TALK WITH HIM THIS TIME, AS I HAD IN DECEMBER. I DID HAVE DINNER WITH GENERAL GRAHAM, ONE OF THE MORE CONFIDENTIAL

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EXTREME PERSONALITIES AROUND PRESIDENT VELASCO, GENERAL FIGUEROA, ANOTHER INTELLECTUAL BODYGUARD, AND AUGUSTO ZIMMERMAN. THE YOUNG CIVILIAN NEWSMAN WHO HAS BEEN CLOSE TO THE PRESIDENT. THEY ARE FULL OF REVOLUTIONARY FERVOR BUT APPREHENSIVE OVER THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PRESIDENT IS NEARING THE END. APRIL MAY BE A TIME OF CONSIDERABLE TRANSITIONS IN LIMA THOUGH DE LA FLOR WILL CONTINUE.

11. COMMENT: THE MEETINGS WITH PRIMIN BERMUDEZ AND GARCIA BEDOYA WERE SUBSEQUENT TO MY SESSION WITH DE LA FLOR. EACH MEETING WAS, IN A SENSE, A FOLLOW-UP TO SPECIFIC PORTIONS OF DE LA FLOR MEETING. FROM THIS I READ THAT DE LA FLOR IS COORDINATING CAREFULLY GOP PREPARATIONS FOR YOUR VISIT, PROBABLY UNDER DIRECT INSTRUCTIONS OF VELASCO. ALSO, WHILE VELASCO MAY BE ON THE

WAY OUT, THE GOP IS UNLIKELY TO BE SEVERELY SHAKEN IN
ITS POLICY ORIENTATIONS BY THE CHANGE.
CRIMMINS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED.

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